

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
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USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH ZA US UK SF
SUBJ: DAILY MAIL LASHES OUT AT WESTERN SUPPORT FOR VORSTER
ON EVE OF OWEN VISIT

REF: LUSAKA 0952 (NOTAL)

1. THE ZAMBIAN DAILY MAIL'S POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT IN A
NEWS ANALYSIS ARTICLE APPEARING APRIL 12 QUESTIONED THE
NECESSITY OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S VISIT TO
SOUTHERN AFRICA. BASIC THESIS OF ARTICLE IS THAT THE WEST
SUPPORTS AND REFUSES TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON SOUTH
AFRICA. THIS MEANS SOUTH AFRICA FEELS FREE TO DENY MAJORITY
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RULE IN NAMIBIA AND TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SMITH IN
HIS EFFORT TO BLOCK MAJORITY RULE THERE. THE WRITER
STATES THAT UNDERLYING REASON WHY THE WEST WILL NOT BACK
THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS BECAUSE OF ITS
SUPPORT FOR THE WHITES ON GROUNDS OF COLOR. THE ARTICLE
CRITICIZES THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE WEST WHICH ADVOCATES
A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, BUT IS UNWILLING TO USE PEACEFUL

METHODS LIKE ENFORCING AN OIL AND TRADE EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA TO ACHIEVE ITS AVOWED GOALS. AFRICANS HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LOOK TO RUSSIA FOR WEAPONS TO WIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE "WHITE RACISTS IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WHO ARE THE OPEN ALLIES OF THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS." SURELY IT MUST OCCUR TO THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS THAT A SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN REACHED WHERE WESTERN "PRETENSIONS OF SOLVING THE RHODESIAN SITUATION THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, THOUGH DESIRABLE, IS AN OPEN INSULT TO THE AFRICAN PEOPLE. THE LIBERATION WAR SUFFERED SEVERE REVERSES WHEN THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SUCCUMBED TO "CHICANERY OF THE IMPERIALISTS BY GOING TO GENEVA WHERE THEY WASTED PRECIOUS TIME BEFORE THEY REALIZED THDO WERE BEING TAKEN FOR A RIDE. GENEVA WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A DELAYING TACTIC ON BEHALF OF SMITH AND VORSTER BY BRITAIN AND AMERICA."

2. THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY AND U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. ARE ACCUSED OF FAILING TO UNDERSTAND THE PACE OF MOVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THUS ARE UNABLE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THESE REALITIES ARE THAT MAJORITY RULE WILL ONLY COME THROUGH WAR AND THOSE WHO ADVOCATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT NOW WHEN "SMITH FEELS STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT WITH WESTERN WEAPONS," ARE NOT ONLY IRRELSWANT BUT ARE DOING A GREAT HARM TO MAJORITY RULE. THOSE WHO SUPPORT TALKS WITHOUT ACTION ARE BECOMING "FIGURELESS AND BONELESS" BORES.
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COMMENT: THIS IS THE STRONGEST CONDEMNATION OF THE OWEN VISIT YET TO APPEAR IN THE LOCAL PRESS. WE BELIEVE IT IS AN AUTHORITATIVE IF SOMEWHAT OVERSTATED ANALYSIS OF HOW THE GRZ VIEWS THE CHANCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE OWEN VISIT. HOWEVER, THE ZAMBIANS REMAIN PREPARED TO GIVE HIM A HEARING IN THE HOPE THAT SOMETHING POSITIVE MAY RESULT.
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